

AF/2706



TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF (Large Entity)

Docket No.
ITL.0434US

Re Application Of: Russell A. Wilson et al.

Serial No. 09/641,431	Filing Date August 18, 2000	Examiner Le V. Nguyen	Group Art Unit 2174
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Invention: **COMMUNICATING OBJECTS BETWEEN USERS OR APPLICATIONS**

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Transmitted herewith in triplicate is the Appeal Brief in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on October 16, 2003

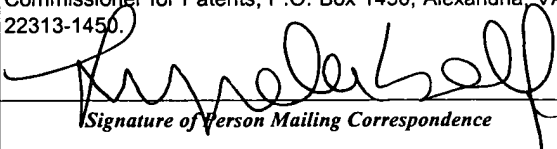
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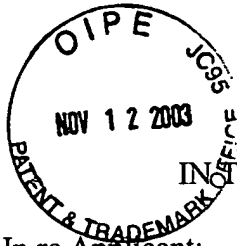

Signature

Dated: 11/3/03

Timothy N. Trop, Reg. No. 28,994
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100
Houston, TX 77024
713/468-8880 [Phone]
713/468-8883 [Fax]

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#11
1 of 3

In re Applicant:

Russell A. Wilson et al.

Serial No.: 09/641,431

Filed: August 18, 2000

For: Communicating Objects Between
Users or Applications

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Art Unit: 2174

Examiner: Le V. Nguyen

Docket: ITL.0434US
P9442

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APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Applicant respectfully appeals from the final rejection mailed July 29, 2003.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the assignee Intel Corporation.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

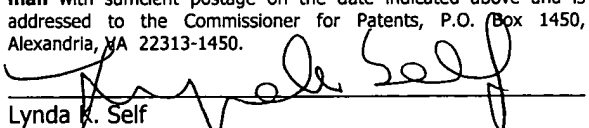
None.

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Lynda K. Self

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6, 10-16, and 20-30 are rejected. Each rejection is appealed.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All amendments have been entered.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A user interface 10, shown in Figure 1, for a processor-based system, such as a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a handheld computer, a processor-based appliance, or a set-top box, may be composed of a single window 58 together with a communications interface 68. The window 58 provides a user workspace 69 that includes areas for posting objects such as sticky note 64, digital image 59, or digital sound files (not shown). In the illustrated example, the interface 10 is associated with a particular user, named Richard, as indicated by the user interface component 12 illustrated as a button. Richard may have an animated icon 66 associated with Richard's interface 10. .

Below the interface component 12, on the left side of the window 58, a plurality of interface components may be provided including a favorite links interface component 14. Each of the interface components 14 through 24 may be in the form of mouse selectable icon indicating the nature of a number of stored objects. In the case of the favorite links interface component 14, the stored objects may be Uniform Resource Locators for favorite Internet web pages. Those locators may be stored in a compact format accessible through the component 14. Once the component 14 is selected, the links may be displayed as a drop down display as one example. See specification at page 4, line 14 through page 5, line 12.

Similarly, the interface component 16 may store a plurality of images. The interface component 18 may store a plurality of digital music files, the interface component 20 may store stored messages received by the user, the interface component 22 may store saved notes and the interface component 24 may store recipes. Additional interface components may be displayed by selecting the scroll down button 26.

A text entry block 30 enables the user to prepare notes. Whenever the user wishes to prepare a new note, the user may mouse select the new note button 32. When the user has completed the note, the user may mouse select the post note button 34 using the cursor 78 as indicated. In one embodiment of the present invention, sticky note style images are automatically created as indicated at 64. That is, the image 64 has the appearance of sticky note that has adhesive along the top edge and does not have adhesive on the bottom edge so that the image appears to curl up at the opposite edge. See specification at page 5, line 13 through page 6, line 13.

The lower end of the window 58 may include a time and date display 44 and a plurality of function keys 46 through 56. The function key 46 transitions the display from an interface 10 associated with one particular user, in this case Richard, to a home interface shared by a plurality of users. The plurality of users may, in one embodiment of the present invention, be a family or other associated group of individuals who wish to use the same processor-based system and to communicate on that system with one another. However each user may be provided with his or her own interface 10 which may be accessed (as will be described hereinafter) through a password protection system.

The communications interface 68 may extend as a vertical strip along the right side of the window 58 in one embodiment of the invention. The interface 68 may include an iconless area

68a that acts as one user's personal communications interface. The iconless area 68a may be used to store representations of objects that the user wishes to temporarily store or subsequently transfer to either another user or another application. As used herein, objects may include textual or graphical files, audio or video files, script and application programs. See specification at page 6, line 14 through page 7, line 22.

A plurality of icons 70, 72a, 72b act as iconized communication interfaces. Each of the icons 70, 72a and 72b corresponds to a user of a shared processor-based system in one embodiment. By clicking on an object and dragging-and-dropping it to the appropriate icon 70, 72a or 72b, the corresponding object is automatically transferred either to a home interface in the case of the icon 70 or to an interface associated with (and accessible by) another user in the case of icons 72a and 72b.

An icon 74 may correspond to a thumbnail representation of an object that a user has decided to store in the user's communications interface 68. The icon 74 may be stored in the interface 68 for an indeterminate amount of time. The user may use the storage space provided by the communications interface 68, for example, as a transfer point to transfer the corresponding objects to another application that may subsequently be displayed within the workspace 69.

Incoming objects that have been received from other users may also be stored within the communications interface 68 before they are actually transferred into the user's workspace 69. In this way, the user decides whether to drag-and-drop the incoming objects, initially received in the communications interface 68, into the workspace 69 or, alternatively, to drag-and-drop them into the trash can interface 76 for disposal. See specification at page 7, line 23 through page 9, line 3.

In Figure 10, the user has positioned a cursor 78 over a digital image icon 75 in the communications interface 68. The icon 75 represents a digital image object. The user may then mouse click on the icon 75 causing the icon to attach to the cursor 78 as shown in Figure 1. The user may transfer the digital image to another user's interface 10 via an icon 72 in the communications interface 68 or may drag-and-drop the icon into the workspace 69.

The thumbnail 60a, created when the icon 75 is clicked on, is moved with the cursor 78, as shown in Figure 1, until it reaches its desired destination. When the user releases the mouse button, the thumbnail 60a assumes a full scale size image 60 and is displayed in the user's workspace 69 as shown in Figure 2. Alternatively, the thumbnail 60a may be dragged-and-dropped to the trash can 76 wherein it is discarded.

Referring next to Figure 3, the communications interface software 120, in the embodiment of the invention, initially determines whether an object has been selected as indicated in diamond 122. The object may be selected by being mouse clicked on in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. When an object has been selected, a thumbnail depiction of the object may be attached to a cursor as indicated in block 124. In one embodiment of the present invention, the thumbnail depiction may be semitransparent or transparent so that the underlying material can be readily viewed. This facilitates dragging-and-dropping the thumbnail at the desired location.

Referring to block 126, the object then moves with the cursor as the cursor moves. When the cursor reaches the desired location, the object is positioned at the location where the cursor is released as indicated in block 128. See specification at page 9, line 4 through page 10, line 9.

Turning now to Figure 4, a home interface 10a for a group of users such as a family, a group of friends, a business organization, a social organization or the like may include a plurality

of registered users. In the example illustrated in Figure 4, the home interface component 12a is displayed above the icons for three family members including the father, Richard, indicated by the icon 66, the mother, Claire, indicated by the icon 72b and the daughter Nicole indicated by the icon 72a. In this case, the icon 70 for the home interface 10a is displayed within the window 58 and the icon 66 associated with Richard has now been moved over to the communications interface 68 where it is located adjacent the icons of the other users including the icon 72b for Claire and the icon 72a for Nicole.

A variety of objects may be posted on the home interface 10a such as a digital image 61 and a sticky note 67. The sticky note 67 may have been posted to the home interface 10a as a reminder by one user for all users to see. However, such a note may also be directed to only one of the users.

In one embodiment of the present invention, all sticky notes are communicated directly to the intended recipient and are likewise posted on the home interface 10a. In other cases, the publication of such notes on the home interface 10a may not be implemented automatically.

The home interface 10a functions like the front of a family refrigerator. A user may post various objects of interest on a refrigerator such as notes or pictures, using refrigerator magnets. The idea is that the refrigerator door is a public space used as a communications center by family members. Thus, the interface 10a effectively emulates the idea of a public posting place for all users of a processor-based system to see and to communicate with one another. To augment the refrigerator motif, magnet images (not shown) may be superimposed over the image 61. See specification at page 10, line 10 through page 11, line 19.

Any user can bring up the home interface 10a. From the home interface 10a a user may access the user's private interface 10 by clicking on the appropriate one of the icons 66, 72d or

72b. Thus, when Richard clicks on the icon 66, the icon 70 is replaced with the icon 66 and vice versa and Richard's interface 10 is displayed in the window 58. Access to each individual user's interface 10 is password protected. Thus, when a user clicks on the user's icon, such as the icon 66, the user is asked for a password in order to access the corresponding user interface 10. Upon providing the password, a new interface 10 is displayed in the window 58. Thus, a group of users may each have their own private space as well as a public space in the form of the home interface 10a. Communications between any of the user's private interfaces 10 and the home interface 10a may be implemented using the communications interface 68.

When a user mouse clicks on the image 61 (in Figure 4) using the cursor 78, a thumbnail depiction of the image 61 is created as indicated at 60b in Figure 5. This thumbnail depiction may be attached to the cursor 78 as indicated.

The cursor 78 may then be moved to a communications interface 68 icon associated with one of the other users. The mouse button may be released to transfer that object through the communications interface 68 directly to an interface associated with the icon-selected user. See specification at page 11, line 20 through page 12, line 19.

VI. ISSUES

A. Is Claim 1 Obvious Over Tang In View Of Fernandes?

VII. GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS

All claims may be grouped with claim 1.

VIII. ARGUMENT

A. Is Claim 1 Obvious Over Tang In View Of Fernandes?

Claim 1 was rejected under Section 102, citing column 8, lines 52-54 of Tang. However, nothing in Tang has anything to do with creating a user annotatable sticky note interface. While Tang does disclose something about allowing notes to be prepared, there is no suggestion of providing a note having the appearance of a sticky note.

The use of the sticky note interface is highly effective in suggesting the manner of using the interface. People are familiar with writing on sticky notes and then sticking the sticky note where they want it to be. A similar operation is provided with the dragging and dropable sticky notes user interfaces here. Thus, the use of the sticky note interface will be more intuitive when the interface is presented as a sticky note interface.

The office action suggests that both Fernandes and Tang teach the use of a sticky note. In Tang, the sticky note is asserted to be the element 18. But this surely cannot be so since the element 18 is a so-called “stick-up button” which allows the current worker to create a message. See column 8, lines 54-56. Most certainly the button 18 does not constitute a sticky note. It simply is a button that can be selected to allow a current worker to create a message. But there is no reason to presume that that message would be in the form of an image of a sticky note. There simply appears to be nothing in any of the material in Fernandes that has anything to do with a sticky note. The cited material has been carefully reviewed and there simply does not appear to be any discussion of a sticky note.

Absent a teaching of a sticky note, the advantageous communication protocol set forth in the current claims cannot be realized. The cited references, even when combined, would not render obvious the claimed invention. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be reversed.


IX. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that each of the final rejections be reversed and that the claims subject to this Appeal be allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

11/3/03



Timothy M. Trop, Reg. No. 28,994
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100
Houston, TX 77024
713/468-8880 [Phone]
713/468-8883 [Fax]

APPENDIX OF CLAIMS

The claims on appeal are:

1. A method comprising:

displaying a communications interface in association with a window, said interface including an icon representing a potential object recipient;

enabling a user interface in the form of a sticky note to be annotated in order to pass a note to an intended recipient; and

enabling said note interface to be transferred to said recipient by dragging-and-dropping said note to said icon.
2. The method of claim 1 including providing an icon for each of a plurality of users and enabling communications through said communications interface between said users.
3. The method of claim 2 including providing a home interface for said users and enabling communications between said users and said home interface using said communications interface.
4. The method of claim 3 including providing access on a password protected basis to said interfaces associated with said users.
5. The method of claim 1 further including producing a thumbnail depiction of an object when said object is mouse clicked on.

6. The method of claim 5 including attaching a depiction of said object to a cursor so that said depiction moves as said cursor moves.

10. The method of claim 1 including providing a first interface where objects are persistently stored after being transferred from the first interface and a second interface where objects are automatically discarded after being transferred from the second interface.

11. An article comprising a medium storing instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based system to:

display a communications interface in association with a window, said interface including an icon representing a potential object recipient;

enable a user to prepare a note on a user interface having the appearance of a sticky note; and

enable said interface including said note to be transferred to said recipient by dragging-and-dropping said interface to said icon.

12. The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide an interface for each of a plurality of users to enable communications through said communication interface between said users.

13. The article of claim 12 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide a home interface for said users that enables communications between said users and said home interface using said communications interface.

14. The article of claim 12 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide access on a password protected basis to said interfaces associated with said users.

15. The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to produce a thumbnail depiction of an object when said object is mouse clicked on.

16. The article of claim 15 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to attach said depiction to a cursor so that said depiction moves as the cursor moves.

20. The article of claim 11 to provide a first interface where objects are persistently stored after being transferred from the first interface and a second interface where objects are automatically discarded after being transferred from the second interface.

21. A system comprising:
a processor;
a storage coupled to said processor, said storage storing instructions that, if executed, enable said processor to display a communications interface in association with a window, said interface including an icon representing a potential object recipient; and
enable a user to prepare a note on a user interface having the appearance of a sticky note and to transfer said note to the recipient by dragging-and-dropping a representation of said object said note to said icon.

22. The system of claim 21 including a display and a mouse coupled to said processor.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the storage stores instructions that enable the processor to provide an interface for each of a plurality of users to enable communication through said communication interface between users.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to facilitate communications between users of the same system.

25. The system of claim 23 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to provide a home interface for said users and enables communications between said users and said home interface using said communications interface.

26. The system of claim 22 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to automatically produce a thumbnail depiction of an object when said object is mouse clicked on.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein said depiction of said object is automatically linked to said cursor so that said depiction moves as the cursor moves.

28. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to provide a first interface where objects are persistently stored after being transferred from the first interface and a second interface where objects are automatically discarded after being transferred from the second interface.

29. A graphical user interface comprising:
an icon representing a potential object recipient;
a user interface having the appearance of a sticky note such that the user can provide notes on said sticky note; and
said interface being transferable to said recipient by dragging-and-dropping said note to said icon.

30. The graphical user interface of claim 29 including a plurality of icons representing a plurality of potential recipients.